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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,832	04/14/2004	Masatoshi Homan	17640	5643

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EXAMINER

KASZTEJNA, MATTHEW JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3739

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/823,832	Applicant(s) HOMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew J. Kasztejna	Art Unit 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 11, 14 and 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Amendment

In response to the amendment filed on December 30, 2005, amended claims 1-2, 6-20 and new claims 21-22 are acknowledged. The rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112 is *withdrawn*. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-13, 15, 17-20 *stand* rejected. The following new and reiterated grounds of rejection are set forth:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-13, 15 and 19-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117491 to Avni et al.

In regards to claims 1 and 21-22, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus having an illuminating device 38 for irradiating illuminating light in a body cavity, a switching device for switching illuminating conditions of the illuminating light irradiated by the illuminating device, the switching device being able to preset at least two different illuminating conditions and a switching order thereof, the switching device switching the illuminating conditions to a set order; an image pick-up device 32 for sequentially picking up an images of a subject, which is irradiated with illuminating light

Art Unit: 3739

under the illuminating conditions which are different according to the switching by the switching device; and a radio device 34 which transmits by radio waves image data obtained by the image pick-up device upon sequentially switching the two or more light-emitting amount or light-emitting time (see Fig. 2 and paragraphs 0039-42 and 0074-0076).

In regards to claim 2, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus wherein the at least two different illuminating conditions are a light-emitting amount or light-emitting time, the capsule endoscope further comprising: a setting device which sets the light-emitting amount or light-emitting time (see paragraphs 0057-64 and 0075).

In regards to claim 3, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus, wherein the setting device is a storing device which stores information for setting the light-emitting amount or light-emitting time (see paragraph 0071).

In regards to claims 4-6, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus wherein the at least two different illuminating conditions are a light-emitting amount or light-emitting time, the illuminating device comprises a white LED (see paragraph 0039) and wherein the illuminating device comprises an electroluminescence.

In regards to claim 6, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus, wherein a signal gain of the image pick-up device is proportional to the light-emitting amount or light-emitting time (see paragraph 0719).

In regards to claims 7 and 12, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus having an illuminating device 38 for irradiating illuminating light in a body cavity, a switching device for switching illuminating conditions of the illuminating light

irradiated by the illuminating device, the switching device being able to preset at least two different illuminating conditions and a switching order thereof, the switching device switching the illuminating conditions to a set order; an image pick-up device 32 for sequentially picking up an images of a subject, which is irradiated with illuminating light under the illuminating conditions which are different according to the switching by the switching device (see Fig. 2 and paragraphs 0039-42 and 0074-0076); a selecting device which extracts an image with a wide dynamic range from the two or more pieces of image data obtained by the image pick-up device upon sequentially switching the two or more light-emitting amount or light-emitting time (see Fig. 13 and paragraphs 0152-157); and a radio device 34 which transmits by radio waves the image data obtained by the selecting device (see paragraph 0036).

In regards to claims 8, 10, 13 and 15, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus, wherein a luminance distribution of the image data is used as a comparison standard for extracting the image with the wide dynamic range by the selecting device (see paragraphs 0070-0074).

In regards to claim 19, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus having an illuminating device 38 for irradiating illuminating light in a body cavity, a switching device for switching illuminating conditions of the illuminating light irradiated by the illuminating device, the switching device being able to preset at least two different illuminating conditions and a switching order thereof, the switching device switching the illuminating conditions to a set order; an image pick-up device 32 for sequentially picking up an images of a subject, which is irradiated with illuminating light under the

Art Unit: 3739

illuminating conditions which are different according to the switching by the switching device; and a radio device which transmits by radio waves the image data obtained by the image pick-up device (see Figs. 11-12).

In regards to claim 20, Avni et al disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus, wherein the illuminating device has a plurality of light-emitting elements at different arranging positions, and the switching device selects the light-emitting element which emits light from the plurality of light emitting element and changes the property of light distribution for the illuminating light (see Figs 11-12 and paragraphs 0129-136).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117491 to Avni et al. in view of EP 0912047 to Matsumoto et al.

In regards to claims 17-18, Avni et al. disclose a capsule endoscope apparatus having an illuminating device 38 for irradiating illuminating light in a body cavity, a switching device for switching illuminating conditions of the illuminating light irradiated by the illuminating device, the switching device being able to preset at least two different illuminating conditions and a switching order thereof, the switching device switching the illuminating conditions to a set order; an image pick-up device 32 for sequentially

Art Unit: 3739

picking up an images of a subject, which is irradiated with illuminating light under the illuminating conditions which are different according to the switching by the switching device; a radio device which transmits by radio waves image data obtained by the image pick-up device but are silent with respect to an image processing device which generates one piece of combined image with an enlarged dynamic range from two or more pieces of image data. Matsumoto et al. teach of an analogous imaging apparatus comprising means for expanding the dynamic range of the images. Matsumoto et al. teach of a system wherein when a luminance level is low, the ratio of the first image signal, which has been produced during the longer exposure time, to the second image signal is increased. This results in an image demonstrating a high signal-to-noise ratio. When the luminance level is high the ratio of the second image signal, which has been produced during the shorter exposure time, to the first image signal is increased (see Fig. 2). This results in a synthetic image that proves a wide dynamic range, depicts a smoothly varying brightness level, and exhibits a characteristic of being seen almost natural. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include a image processing device in the apparatus of Avni et al. in order to produce a single image with a large dynamic range from first and second image signals as taught by Matsumoto et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 11, 14 and 16 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 30, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In regards to claims 1, 7, 12 and 17-19, the words "for" and "able to" in the recited claims may be properly interpreted as "capable of," and "capable of" does not require that reference actually teach the intended use of the element, but merely that the reference does not make it so it is incapable of performing the intended use.

Furthermore, applicant states Anvi fails to disclose a capsule apparatus having all the recited features of independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 19. However, Anvi discloses a maximal allowable illumination period ΔT_4 that is preset and may have variable values (see paragraphs 0075-0076 and Figs. 7-9). Thus, as broadly as claimed, Anvi discloses a switching device for switching illuminating conditions of the illuminating light irradiated by the illuminating device, the switching device being able to preset at least two different illuminating conditions and a switching order thereof, the switching device switching the illuminating conditions to a set order.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 3739

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

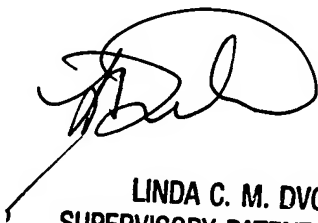
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Kasztejna whose telephone number is (571) 272-6086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MJK

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